Fax: (617)254-7535

DRASNIN PRODUCTIONS, INC.
180 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021
(212) 988-2409

TO: Margaret Drain

FROM: Irv Drasnin

Date: 12/3/91

Re: Ouseley letter -- I suggest something along these lines. I'm at the editing room: (212) 765-7948.

Dear Mr. Ouseley:

The American Experience program "G-Men - The Rise of J. Edgar Hoover" was broadcast after a year of research, interviews and fact-checking. The consultant to the project, Professor Richard Gid Powers, is the author of what the FBI's official historian considers the best biography of Mr. Hoover yet written. A member of the bureau's public relations staff found the documentary to be impressive and fair.

Those of us who labor long and hard in this profession are not above criticism. We expect reasoned and throughtful commentary on our work. You are, of course, entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled, without even a shred of supporting evidence, to slander the many professionals who produced this broadcast with your intemperate language and reckless charges.

Sincerely,

Best regards.

WILLIAM N. OUSELEY
7646 Lackman Rd.
Lenexa, Kansas 66217

November 21, 1991

Mr.Robert Fuzy
KCPTV
125 E. 31st St.
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Mr. Fuzy

My wife and I have been regular subscribers to KCPTV for a number of years, however, that will no longer be the case.

We have been increasingly disturubed over the political bent Public TV has taken in Kansas city, and apparently around the country. For us the last straw was the program you aired on Monday night, November 18, 1991, "G-Men: The Rise of J. Edgar Hoover". This is another in a long line of one sided programs aired here, that are inaccurate, prejudiced, and heavily slanted to support a liberal agenda that seems to dominate the media. We had expected better of public television, but have come to realize the principal difference is, one doesn't have to suffer through commericals while being assaulted with such programming.

What distinguishes, for us, between the Hoover program and others like it, is that we have personal knowledge concerning the subject matter. My wife was an FBI employee, and I retired after 25 years of FBI service as an FBI Agent. To say this program disgusted me would be a gross understatement. My wife displayed better sense and would not watch it, stating "You know what this is going to be."

I am not proposing that Mr. Hoover did not have his faults, who of us doesn't. I would propose no public figure worthy of a television special is without his faults, and subject to criticism from some segment of society. However, it is interesting to note the selective process of which of these public figures are to be crucified. All I propose is that such presentations be balanced, fair-minded, objective, and <u>accurate</u> so that the public can make their own informed decisions.

The distorted and twisted Hoover program served no purpose other than to satisfy the prejudices and leanings of individuals who by some misfortune have been given a national forum. Again, I say we had expected better of public television.

I could go on in further detail as to this program specifically, and other of the programs you have been offering in recent times, but I have a sense it is futile.

Each time we feel commercial television has reached rock bottom, it achieves new lows. The fact that such a powerful vehicle has fallen into the hands of individuals who seemingly have absolutely no concept of responsibility, fairness, morality or ethics, is frightening. As to that form of television we have done what we can - tune out. At one time public television seemed to offer an alternative, and although it has not reached the same lows, in our estimation it is on the same track. In the case of public television there is available a second course of action, in addition to tuning out, and that is to cease monetary support.

Jo & William Ouseley

WILLIAM N. OUSELEY
7646 Lackman Rd.
Lenexa, Kansas 66217

November 21, 1991

Ms. Judy Chrichton
Executive Producer
WGBH-TV
Boston, Mass. 02134

Ms. Chrichton,

Your name was provided to me by KCPT, Public Televison, Kansas City, Missouri, as the person to direct correspondence concerning the series American Experience.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter directed to KCPT which sets forth our views as to the recent American Experience program, "G-Men: the rise of J. Edgar Hoover".

The conclusions, represented as fact, presented in the Hoover program are incredibile. What is disturbing is that public television would see fit to air such irresponsible programs. And, as mentioned in my letter to KCPT, the Hoover program is only one in a long line of similarly inaccurate, non objective public television presentations. It has come to the point where we no longer feel it appropriate to provide finacial support to our public television station.

Although I expect in answer to this letter of complaint the ususal non responsive form letter, I still feel it is imperative that I write. It is not right or beneficial that such a powerful medium be dominated by individuals who use it to further their particular views and politcal persuasion.

William N. Ouseley

Fax Cover Sheet

WGBH

sent to Irv Drashin fax # 212/765-7914 date 11/27 time 2:25

sent by Kathy Hummel WGBH fax # 617/254-7535

This is page 1 of 4 page(s). If there are problems with this transmittal, please call 617 492 2777 extension

Irv,

Here is the letter. Have a wonderful holiday. Will touch base on Monday.

Kathy

WGBH Educational Foundation
Boston
Massachusetts 02134

dwp Daniel Wilson Productions Inc.

FAX COVER SHEET

(212) 765-7916

Date: December 3, 1991

Time: 10:30

To: Margaret Drain

cc: _____

From: Irv Drasnin

The number of pages for this transmission is 2 including this cover sheet:

Message:

300 West 55th Street New York, N.Y. 10019 (212) 765-7148 FAX (212) 765-7916

December 4, 1991

Jo & William Ouseley
7646 Lackman Road
Lenexa, Kansas 66217

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ouseley,

We received a copy of your letter to Mr. Fuzy at KCPT in Kansas City complaining about the program we produced on J. Edgar Hoover called "G-Men."

As producers, we take very seriously the responsibility of historical accuracy. We take just as seriously any accusation that a program falls short of that. Each of our films has at least one historical advisor working closely with the producer to help insure that inaccuracies do not occur. This film was no exception. The consultant to the project, Professor Richard Gid Powers, is the author of what the FBI's official historian considers the best biography of Mr. Hoover yet written. A member of the bureau's public relations staff found the documentary to be impressive and fair.

It is impossible for us to be responsive to a general accusation that the program was, in your words, slanted, distorted and twisted without specific examples offered. And I think if you watched The American Experience regularly, you would come to realize that we do not have a liberal agenda.

We are sorry that you came to the conclusions you did about the program and that you felt strongly enough to stop your contributions to public television. But you have the right to your own opinion.

Sincerely,

Margaret Drain
Senior Producer

cc: Robert Fuzy
Irv Drasnin